Board Member Oath and Conduct

Each School Board member, before taking his or her seat on the Board, shall take the following oath of office:

I, (*name*), **do solemnly swear** (or affirm) that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of Community High School District 99, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

I further swear (or affirm) that:

I shall respect taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the School District's assets;

I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow Board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees;

I shall recognize that a Board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public Board meeting;

I shall abide by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.

As part of the Board of Education, I shall accept the responsibility for my role in the equitable and quality education of every student in the School District;

I shall foster with the Board extensive participation of the community, formulate goals, define outcomes, and set the course for Community High School District 99;

I shall assist in establishing a structure and an environment designed to ensure all students have the opportunity to attain their maximum potential through a sound organizational framework;

I shall strive to ensure a continuous assessment of student achievement and all conditions affecting the education of our children, in compliance with State law;

I shall serve as education's key advocate on behalf of students and our community's schools to advance the vision for Community High School District 99; and

I shall strive to work together with the District Superintendent to lead the School District toward fulfilling the vision the Board has created, fostering excellence for every student in the areas of academic skills, knowledge, citizenship, and personal development.

The Board President will administer the oath in an open Board meeting; in the absence of the President, the Vice President will administer the oath. If neither is available, the Board member with the longest service on the Board will administer the oath.

The Board adopts the Illinois Association of School Boards' *Code of Conduct for Members of School Boards (Code).* A copy of the *Code* shall be displayed in the regular Board meeting room.

Ethics Above All

Ethical conduct in all things is an essential part of the School District's values. In addition to complying strictly with this Code of Conduct, all members of the School Board are expected to behave ethically at all times.

Members of the Board of Education represent the public interest in education and as such establish for individual members the following Code of Conduct.

1. To represent all school district constituents honestly and equally and refuse to surrender responsibilities to special interests or partisan political groups.

2. To avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety which could result from Board membership.

3. To eschew Board membership for personal gain or publicity.

4. To recognize that a Board member has no legal authority as an individual but that decisions must be made by majority vote at a Board meeting.

5. To take no private action that might compromise the Board or administration.

6. To respect the confidentiality of privileged information.

7. To abide by majority decisions of the Board while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.

8. To encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by Board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board.

9. To stay abreast of important educational issues at the local, state and national levels.

Reporting Violations

All members of the Board of Education have a responsibility to report violations of this Code of Conduct. Board members should report suspected violations to the School Board President, School Board Vice President or the District's legal counsel.

Response to Report Violations

The School Board President and/or a second member of the School Board will investigate any report of violation of this Code of Conduct. In the event of a member's violation of policy, the Board will seek remedy by the following process:

1. First, a conversation in a private setting between the offending member and the Board President and/or Board Vice President;

2. Second, discussion in a Board self-evaluation between the offending member and the full Board with a member of the Illinois School Board Association (or other similar intermediary);

3. After thoughtful deliberation, the Board may vote to censure the offending member of the Board;

4. After all of the above proceedings have been exhausted, other legal due process would take place.

Adopted: 06/16/14
Revised: 02/25/19; 10/20/25